Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 year to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

(c) No, Sir.

Government support to noncommercial public schools in Assam

1768. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent of the non-commercial public schools in Assam run by public with Government concurrence are yet to be supported by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such public institutes in Assam running without any support either from Central or State Government, category-wise;

(c) whether non-commercial colleges established and run by public are also deprived of UGC grants;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government proposes to launch any special scheme to cover the students and teachers of these deprived institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The matter pertains to the State Government of Assam. The Central Government has no scheme to support private unaided schools in Assam.

(c) to (f) University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants to the institutions of higher education which are covered under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956. Self financing institutions of higher education are not provided with financial assistance by UGC.

Establishment of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

1769. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to establish more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat has requested Central Government for the establishment of an IISER in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) As per the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been established at Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. At present, there is no proposal to establish any more IISERs in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A suitable reply has been sent to the Chief Minister of Gujarat stating that at present there is no proposal to establish any more IISERs in the country.

World Bank report on secondary education

1770. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that our secondary education is in shambles;

(b) whether Government has taken cognizance of the World Bank report recently published stating that India is behind China, Brazil, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in secondary education; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to improve the quality of education at all levels?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The World Bank in its report 'Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity' (January, 2009) has mentioned that India's gross enrolment rate at the secondary level of 40% is below that of countries in East Asia and Latin America. The report also states that countries having lower per capita income than India such as Vietnam and Moldova have much higher GER Bangladesh with a far lower per capita income has roughly the same GER at the secondary level.

(c) Central Government recognizes the need to make substantial improvement to the secondary education sector. A new centrally sponsored scheme called "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" has been launched to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. It, *inter alia*, seeks to ensure availability of secondary school within reasonable distance of every habitation and to improve quality of education imparted at secondary stage by conforming all schools to prescribed norms. An outlay of Rs.20,120 crore has been provided for this scheme during the Eleventh Plan. The total allocation for the secondary education sector has also been increased from Rs.4,325 crore in the Tenth Plan to Rs.53,550 crore in the Eleventh Plan.

Awarding of MCA and BCA degrees by IGNOU

1771. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: